

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JIMMY E. STEELE III FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jimmy E. Steele III, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 167, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jimmy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jimmy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Due to Jimmy's hard work and leadership, the Winston R-VI school baseball field now proudly displays a new flag pole and American Flag.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jimmy E. Steele III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the outstanding work and commitment of the Child Welfare League of America, CWLA. This organization acts on the premise that every child is valuable and has something to contribute to society. They believe that our children are entitled to nurturance, protection, and the chance to develop to his or her full human potential.

The CWLA testified before the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee on May 23, 2006 to review proposals to improve child protective services, all in an effort to highlight the importance of the child welfare system in ensuring that children and families are afforded the necessary resources and services available.

Although the family and the child welfare system have specific responsibilities, we all know that society as a whole shares the responsibility for promoting healthy human growth and development.

I am submitting at this time part I of the testimony given by CWLA and hope that you will find it informative.

Hello, I am Linda Spears, Vice President of Corporate Communications and Development of the Child Welfare League of America, CWLA. I am honored to submit comments on behalf of CWLA, and our nearly 900 public and private nonprofit, child-serving

member agencies this afternoon. The attention given by the Human Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee focusing on the child protective services system and the reauthorization of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families, PSSF, program further shows the intent to ensure that our children have the appropriate resources and services available to them.

CWLA believes that as a country we must confirm our commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect and to support children who have been abused and neglected. We support strengthened partnerships between federal, state, and local governments and providers in the nonprofit and charitable communities in order to do a better job of protecting our nation's children.

IMPROVING THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In 2004, an estimated 3 million children were reported as abused or neglected and received an assessment or screening to determine whether or not there was evidence of abuse or neglect. Approximately 872,000 children were substantiated as abused or neglected. These numbers are similar to previous years. Another consistent pattern is that more than sixty percent of child victims were victims of neglect, while eighteen percent were physically abused and ten percent were sexually abused. Thirty percent of victims were age 3 or younger. We also know that 1,490 children died from child abuse in 2004. Overall eighty-three percent of the time a parent or parents were involved in the abuse. Another consistent statistic from year to year is that of the children who have been substantiated as abused or neglected, nearly 40 percent do not receive follow up services.

The foundation on which child protective services, CPS, is established and what should always be the first goal of any CPS response is keeping children safe from child abuse and neglect. The CPS response begins with the assessment of reports of child abuse and neglect. If CPS determines the child is at risk of abuse and neglect or has been abused or neglected, CPS should ensure the child and his or her family receive services and supports from the public child protection agency and the community.

CWLA believes the best ways to ensure children are safe from all forms of maltreatment are comprehensive, community-based approaches to protecting children and supporting and strengthening families. Public and private agencies, in collaboration with individual citizens and community entities, can prevent and remedy child maltreatment, achieve child safety, and promote child and family well-being.

Child protective service, CPS, systems in the fifty states are funded by a variety of sources. In fact, funding goes beyond the two programs specifically targeted for today's hearing, the IV-B part 1 and IV-B part 2 programs. Consistently the Social Services Block Grant, SSBG, serves as a major source of funding with thirty-eight states spending \$194 million in SSBG funds in 2004 for child protective services. These funds include some TANF dollars transferred into SSBG. We highlight this because SSBG, which is under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee, is threatened with a potential reduction of \$500 million in the President's proposed FY

2007 budget, a thirty percent reduction in funding that would be devastating to CPS and many other child welfare services. State CPS systems also draw from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, CAPTA, but funding under the state grants part of that program is limited to \$27 million and has never reached its full authorized funding level.

A CPS system that functions well is one that has a fully staffed and competent workforce. When understaffed and overworked, this system of child protection will fail. CWLA cannot emphasize enough the need for a national child welfare workforce strategy that puts well trained and educated workers in place, keeps caseloads at manageable levels, and provides competent supervision and ongoing training.

It is also important to note that CPS is only one part of the child welfare system and it cannot be viewed in isolation. If the efforts at reunification of a family fail, or the adoption fails, or services are not available for families and children who come into contact with the system, then we may find these very same children entering the system again. Children with a prior history of maltreatment are more likely to experience a recurrence of maltreatment than those who were not prior victims.

THE NEED FOR SERVICES

CWLA's vision for an optimal child welfare system encompasses a continuum of services ranging from prevention of abuse and neglect to permanency and stability for children who experience out of home care. Key ingredients of this system are a family-centered approach, an ample, stable, and highly professional workforce, the availability and targeted application of services to prevent child abuse and neglect, maintaining families when maltreatment has occurred and child safety can be reasonably assured, and achieving permanency and stability for children who must experience foster care. These components are consistent with current research and with federal expectations associated with the Child and Family Service Review process.

Family centered approach

Research in child maltreatment, juvenile justice, children's mental health, and parent education supports the effectiveness of interventions that involve the entire family over those targeting the individual parent or child alone. A family-centered approach engages families in addressing the problems that affect the care of their children. Such engagement has been linked positively to compliance with and completion of case plans.

Stable professional workforce

Effective child welfare services are based on accurate differential assessments and require knowledge of human behavior, the factors underlying child maltreatment, and the way in which both risks and protective factors interact to produce an overall picture of a family's needs. Thus, it is not surprising that child welfare workforce research suggests the need for staff that have formal social work education, especially that obtained through specialized child welfare programs such as those developed through Title IV-E-supported agency-university partnerships. Studies further point to the importance of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

consistent mentoring by competent supervisors, and to a supportive and flexible organizational environment. All of these factors have been linked to reduced staff turnover, which recent research suggests is critically important both to minimize costs associated with frequent hiring and training and to improve outcomes for children and families. Greater amount of caseworker contact with children and parents has also been associated with better outcomes. These findings make it imperative that agencies maintain staff in sufficient numbers to provide manageable workloads that do not require caseworkers to sacrifice the provision of direct services in order to complete administrative tasks and documentation.

Prevention of abuse and neglect

Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness or promise of several approaches to prevention of child maltreatment. Models such as Nurse Family Partnerships and Healthy Families have produced evidence that they positively impact a variety of outcomes for children and families, including prevention of abuse and neglect. Likewise, high quality pre-kindergarten programs like the Chicago Child Parent Centers and Head Start that include parental involvement and supports have also demonstrated effectiveness. Independent studies have found that the financial savings achieved by the most effective of these approaches far exceeds their costs. Rigorous cost-benefit analyses conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy showed cost savings for several pre-kindergarten and home visitation programs as well as for Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, a center-based intervention that provides direct coaching to parents as they interact with their young children.

Several interventions that target older children and their families have also been demonstrated to have benefits in lessening children's problematic behavior and improving family functioning. Family-based therapeutic models such as Functional Family Therapy and Multi-Systemic Therapy have been rigorously tested in sites across the country and, despite some variation in findings, there is substantial evidence of their benefits to youth and their families.

Maintaining families

Many children can be safely maintained in their families through the timely application of interventions that correctly target the underlying causes of maltreatment. A number of studies support the benefits of interventions that have a behavioral, skill-building focus and that address family functioning in multiple domains including home, school, and community. Cognitive behavioral models have been demonstrated to reduce physical punishment and parental aggression in less time than alternative approaches. The most effective treatment involves all members of the family and addresses not only parenting skills, but also parent-child interaction and a range of parental life competencies such as communication, problem solving, and anger control. Attention to immediate, concrete needs has also been identified as a key factor in supporting family engagement and positive outcomes.

Permanency and stability

A wealth of research demonstrates the importance of children being nurtured in a stable family environment, confirming the need to move those who must enter foster care into permanent living situations as quickly as possible. Recent studies suggest that, when children must leave their families, well-supported kinship placements have the potential to provide more stable and normalizing environments than unrelated family care.

Most children who enter foster care are able to return to their families of origin, often within less than one year. However, when that is not possible, alternatives such as adoption or subsidized guardianship can offer long term stability. Cost analyses of child welfare services have linked kinship care and subsidized guardianship to cost savings. One study found the cost of effecting an adoption for children in foster care to range from \$6,000 to \$28,539, or an average of \$19,141, suggesting that this permanency alternative has the potential to achieve a substantial savings over long term foster care.

While research supports the use of family care when deemed appropriate by a full assessment, group care is another placement option that may offer benefits for certain youth when used strategically, for a period of time indicated by ongoing assessment, and as part of a plan to maintain or rebuild family and community connections. However, family care, even in therapeutic foster care settings with multiple supportive services, tends to be substantially less expensive.

Aftercare and transitional services

Data indicate that about 25 percent of all children who exit out-of-home care will return at some point, often within one year. The likelihood of re-entry is especially great when children or parents have more numerous or complex needs or when they are exposed to more extreme environmental stressors. Although the likelihood of maltreatment recurrence and/or subsequent re-entry into foster care is undoubtedly related to decision-making and services offered prior to reunification, it strongly suggests a need for aftercare services.

The limited research in family reunification aftercare, indicates that it is most successful when it is initially intensive and includes the availability of concrete services and ongoing assessment of risk. The association of social isolation with failed reunification also suggests the importance of linking with extended family, extra-familial social networks, and informal resources. Tapering off of services should be based on the family's needs rather than on an arbitrary time frame.

Services during and after the adoption process are also an important part of the service continuum. Although the rate of adoption dissolution is quite low overall, research indicates that some placements may have greater needs for follow-up services and supports. One study reported that, while less than 30% of all adoptive families used post-adoption services other than informational resources, most families adopting through a public agency used some type of counseling. This finding was attributed to the larger number of special needs of children placed with these families. As in other types of child welfare intervention, family-focused approaches appear to be the most helpful in supporting adoption stability. Research suggests that adoptive parents may also value participation in support groups, access to literature and seminars, and concrete services like respite care, subsidies, and health benefits.

Services targeting youth who will exit foster care to independence are another important component of a continuum of care. Studies have identified four key elements: school completion, high-intensity supports over time, a work experience component, and the presence of a stable, caring adult as factors leading to successful transition of youth to work and independence. Youth have been shown to benefit from a plan based on systematic assessment, combined with focused skills development, involvement of caregivers as teachers, and re-establishing or maintaining connections to birth/extended family and community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HOUGHTON GREMLINS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 12 extraordinary young women and their coaches who showed incredible determination, character and athleticism in winning the 2005 Girls Class-C State of Michigan Basketball Championship.

As the 2005 season commenced, the Houghton Gremlins were considered by many observers to be in a rebuilding phase. However, this dedicated team of young women was determined to shed that label, disprove the skeptics and move beyond the regional level.

The young women of the 2005 Houghton Gremlins were not the tallest team. In fact, not a single one of their players stood above 5 feet and 8 inches. Many of the teams the Gremlins faced had players who were taller than 6 feet. Yet, what the Gremlins lacked in height, they made up for in speed, skill and, most importantly, a tireless desire to succeed. In many ways, they embodied the famous Theodore Roosevelt quote, "What matters is not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog."

The Gremlin's regular season record of 18-2 demonstrated their winning attitude. Their undefeated record within the West PAC Conference was yet further evidence of their hard work. However, as the post season began, the Gremlins felt that even with a great regular season, they had not yet accomplished their goal.

Winning in the post season would require living up to a favorite saying of their coach, Julie Filpus: "Winners are like biscuits, when things heat up, they rise to the occasion."

The Gremlins took that advice to heart by earning a trip to the quarterfinals with timely three point shots, accurate free throw shooting and fast break layups. On November 28th, the Gremlins packed their bags and headed downstate to Lansing to compete for a state championship.

In Lansing, the Gremlins proved once more that they simply would not give up. At the end of the first half of the title game, Houghton trailed by ten points. However, the Gremlins refocused, rallied and regained their lead. Ultimately, the Lady Gremlins were victorious, eking out a 50-44 victory over the unbeaten Michigan Center.

Athletics in our public schools are meant to teach young people important life lessons such as the value of teamwork and the importance of hard work. Clearly, the 2005 Houghton Gremlins embody these values.

Mr. Speaker, these young women won not only a trophy, but also the admiration, respect and pride of the entire Houghton and Upper Peninsula community. I therefore commend the players, Callen Richards, Jodi Riutta, Whitney Rivest, Molly Turner, Amy Erva, Brooke Asiala, Nicole Asiala, Madeline Northey, Kristen Reed, Beth Sutherland, Josie Riutta and team captain Alyssa Polso. I also salute their coaches, Julie Filpus, Wayne Henry, Chuck LaPointe and Jen Sundstrom, for serving as role models and mentors to these talented young women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Class C Michigan Basketball Champions, the Houghton Gremlins, their coaches and loyal fans.

MICHAEL ADMIRE ELECTED
TEXAS YOUTH GOVERNOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Admire on being elected Texas Youth Governor by his peers this year as part of the YMCA National Youth in Government program. The national conference of governors is being held this week in Washington, DC.

Mr. Admire is an outstanding student who has proven to be charismatic, ambitious and full of integrity. Part of his official duties as the Texas Youth Governor includes reviewing all proposed legislation with the option to sign or veto specific bills. This task is considerable and brings a great deal of commitment and clear judgment.

The Texas Youth in Government is an outstanding program which allows students to actively participate in the government process. During the program, participating students gain an understanding of local and national government process, an understanding of political systems, as well as obtain an appreciation for the diversity of viewpoints on public issues and a respect for the beliefs of others. Democracy is built upon citizens' active participation in upholding civic responsibilities; the Texas Youth in Government program actively promotes this foundation of democracy.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Michael Admire and his accomplishments as Texas Youth Governor. As a resident of Justin, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional District, I am honored to represent Mr. Admire in Washington. He is an outstanding student and a model to the community.

RECOGNIZING TREVOR TUTT FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trevor Tutt, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trevor has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Trevor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Trevor Tutt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HIV/AIDS TODAY CLAIMS A MORE
DIVERSE GROUP OF VICTIMS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article, entitled *The Changing Face of HIV/AIDS Epidemic*, by Tony Best, published in the June 6, 2006 edition of New York Carib News, in the CaribHEALTH section. Mr. Best recalls the first time, twenty five years ago when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control informed the world about a disease that claimed the lives of five homosexual men in California. From then on, this mysterious disease became known as the "gay cancer" and was considered as an immediate sentence for death.

Since then, HIV/AIDS has been responsible for over 25 million deaths worldwide, and the Caribbean Islands have had nothing short of a personal encounter with the disease, as HIV/AIDS claimed 20,000 lives in the region. The most affected countries in the Caribbean have consistently been Haiti, the Bahamas, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Best quotes U.S. HIV/AIDS expert Dr. Wayne Greaves as stating that "Looking back on what has happened in the 25 years, the picture is still not a bright one." Despite all the innovative treatments that now prolong the lives of HIV/AIDS patients, there is still no cure or even a drug that prevents HIV in the first place.

Another very noteworthy point that Mr. Best emphasizes is that HIV/AIDS, while first distinguished as a homosexual, white, male disease, has now become blind to sexual orientation, gender, and race as it is alarmingly spreading and infecting increasing numbers of Blacks and heterosexual women. Although current census places Blacks as accounting for 12 per cent of the U.S. population, they also account for a whopping 51 per cent of the new HIV cases in the nation. Furthermore, the diagnosed HIV cases for women have tripled since first cases in 1985.

Mr. Best cites possible theories that may explain these surprising shifts in HIV infection such as low rate of uncircumcised Black males compared with whites, the large Black prison population, and poverty. In essence, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has completely transformed in nature with regards to who is primarily infected by the disease. Akin to the shift in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic exists the fact that the HIV virus is able to mutate so easily, making it virtually impossible for scientists to develop a vaccine against the disease.

Nevertheless, Mr. Best cites Dr. Greaves as commenting that while the cure to HIV is a "far way off," in the meanwhile, scientist can still continue to develop medications that can prolong life. This point is well taken in light of the fact that there is no cure for diabetes and hypertension, and yet, science has been able to treat people with these diseases to the point where the public no longer sees them as terminal conditions. Dr. Greaves underscores education and access to beneficial drugs as key elements in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST
CASES—THE CHANGING FACE OF HIV/AIDS
EPIDEMIC

(Tony Best)

To some, it was the disease from hell, the "gay cancer," that brought death. To others, it was an unfathomable plague whose origins were first believed to be in Haiti. That was a discredited medical theory scarred a nation, forcing millions from the Caribbean country to fight back to clear their name. To yet another group, the lethal virus that terrorized communities in North America, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, is still wreaking havoc, especially in Africa, but much less so in North America and the Caribbean.

The disease: HIV/AIDS.

Twenty five years after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control first told the world in a 1981 report about the deaths of five homosexuals in California from a rare form of pneumonia, few countries, if any have been spared the ferocity of this deadly disease. Some 25 million deaths later, at least 20,000 of them in Haiti, the Bahamas, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and their neighbors, the world is grappling with the devastation HIV/AIDS has left behind. The Bahamas and Barbados, for instance, are considered success stories in dealing with it, have had more than its fair share of deaths. "Looking back on what has happened in the 25 years, the picture is still not a bright one," said Dr. Wayne Greaves, a Caribbean scientist and an HIV/AIDS expert in the U.S.

For one thing, asserts Dr. Greaves who heads a research laboratory at a large U.S. pharmaceutical firm, "we can argue it is brighter than before, because there are newer and more effective drugs." Even more important, scientists know how to block some, not all, infections that attack the immune functions within the body. Still, there is no drug, which prevents HIV infection in the first place.

"From the epidemiological standpoint it is particularly disconcerting, particularly among Blacks and Hispanics," he said. "In the early days of the epidemic, 95 per cent of the total cases were among men. Two-thirds of those cases were among Caucasians. Blacks made up 20 per cent of the cases. Today, although Blacks account for 12 per cent of the U.S. population they account for 51 per cent of the new HIV cases. For women, the story today isn't very good. The cases diagnosed in the U.S. have increased dramatically among women, tripling among women. From eight per cent in 1985 women accounted for 29 percent of all the cases. It is even higher today."

The hard part is that the pattern of the diseases in Caribbean countries mirrors the trend in the U.S. Globally, more than three million died in 2004 and of the 40 million who succumbed to the disease since 1981, Africa accounted for half of them. In sub-Saharan Africa alone 25.8 million are living with HIV, a 75 per cent jump in the last decade. Sub-Saharan Africa has the world highest rate of infection followed by the Caribbean. In Asia, 8.3 million are living with the disease, an increase of almost 300 per cent since 1981. Indeed, 25 per cent of the new worldwide cases were in Asia last year. In Latin America and the Caribbean an estimated 2.1 million now have the disease, a 75 per cent increase from 1995.

"What is really very troubling in the United States is the high rate of infection among Black men, who are having sex with other men and many are also having sex with women," said Dr. Greaves. "This is really very troubling." How come such growing infections among Black men? "It's not really quite clear what's happening," Greaves said.

For instance, the causes range from a lack of knowledge about their own HIV status and then having sex with other people; low rate of uncircumcised Black males compared with whites; the prevalence of sex workers in Africa and the Caribbean; and the large Black prison population; to mistrust of the medical community; poverty and conspiracy theories.

"In summary, we are now talking about a different epidemic than the one first reported in 1981," Greaves, explained. "It is more heterosexual transmission than before; less homosexual; transmission through injection drug use remains the same; and a lot more women infected than in the early days of the epidemic." But what about treatment?

If there is a bright spot, it is that HIV positive individuals are living longer, many are leading normal lives, and infection is no longer seen as a death sentence, and that's true if you are in New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, New York, Nassau or Port of Spain where retroviral drugs.

"I am optimistic from the medical and scientific standpoint in terms of the new medicines and drugs but I am not optimistic at all about the behavioral response to the messages which have been put out there in the public arena," he said.

On the horizon, some promising categories of drugs. One is entry-inhibitors, which block the virus from being able to enter the cells of the body, thus causing infections. The other is an enzymes used by the virus to infect the cell. By blocking the enzymes scientists interrupt the process of the virus multiplying and causing destruction of the cell, spawning new viruses.

"These are being developed and they look very promising," he reported. "If these successes continue, they would be useful additions to the existing drugs that we use to treat AIDS." Unfortunately, though, current research is unlikely to lead to a class of drugs anytime soon that would prevent infection. In essence, a cure is a far way off.

The problem is that the HIV virus is able to mutate so easily that scientists have been virtually unable to develop a vaccine that stimulates the right antibodies or cells that would prevent infection. "In the meantime, though, we will continue to develop better drugs and we can still prolong life," Greaves said. "We may not be able to cure the infection but we can keep people alive." After all, there's no cure for diabetes and hypertension but "we have effective drugs where people can go living virtually a normal life span," he says.

Dr. Greaves gives several Caribbean nations high marks for their efforts in fighting HIV through education and the provision of drugs to victims.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MICHAEL ALLKINS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated his life to education. Dr. Michael Allkins will retire this month from Bay de Noc Community College, an institution that owes him a debt of gratitude for his tireless work to maintain, improve and strengthen not only the college, but the surrounding community.

Dr. Allkins was appointed president of Bay de Noc Community College (Bay) on August 1st of 1997. During his tenure, President

Allkins accomplished much, ensuring that Bay remains one of the finest community colleges in the Nation. On July 1st of 2006, his time at Bay will come to an end as he and his wife Linda begin a much deserved retirement.

During his administration, Dr. Allkins presided over the completion of the Joseph Heirman University Center, remodeled the Student Center, and improved the chemistry and water technology labs on the campus.

Bay was the first college in Michigan to be awarded a Michigan Technical Education Center. This innovative statewide program ensures that community colleges provide training that is relevant to the needs of local employers. It is through Dr. Allkins' leadership that Bay, in Escanaba, Michigan, was able to open the very first such technical training center in the entire state.

That accomplishment alone demonstrates that Dr. Allkins is a forward thinking leader with a strategy for Bay's future. However, Dr. Allkins' accomplishments span well beyond the Technical Education Center. For over 10 years, the staff and faculty of Bay de Noc had been working to expand the college by opening a campus in neighboring Dickinson County. Under the leadership of Dr. Allkins, the college finally succeeded in passing a millage to fund the expansion and better serve Bay's growing student body 55 miles away from the main campus. Dr. Allkins was instrumental in passing the millage and breaking ground for the new facility.

Dr. Allkins also led Bay through a lengthy, 10-year reaccreditation effort. This reaccreditation required improving the curriculum in general education, reviewing and assessing individual programs and making technological improvements a priority. Dr. Allkins also bolstered programs at the college that recognized the achievements of students, faculty and alumni and formalized Bay's graduation ceremonies.

As any president of an educational institution must be, Dr. Allkins was also an effective ambassador for Bay. He was known for working with the Michigan Community College Association and with legislators to lay a stable financial foundation for Bay. Rural community colleges often have to assert themselves to receive their fair share of funding and Dr. Allkins was an effective advocate for Bay, working to see equitable funding for Michigan community colleges.

Dr. Allkins was also involved in a variety of volunteer organizations in Escanaba and Delta counties. He served on the boards of the Delta County Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Alliance, the Upper Peninsula Great Lakes Educational Technologies, the YMCA and the Saint Francis Hospital Advisory Committee. He is an active member of the Escanaba Rotary Club.

Even prior to coming to Bay de Noc Community College, Dr. Allkins had already enjoyed a career dedicated to education. As Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Interim President at South West Community College in Mount Gay, West Virginia, Dr. Allkins made a number of important contributions to preserving and growing that institution.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Michael Allkins has clearly made education and rural education, in particular, the focus of his career. Bay de Noc Community College and its surrounding com-

munities are better for having enjoyed his stewardship. Because of his leadership skills and the importance of Bay de Noc Community College to the region, all of the Upper Peninsula benefited from having Dr. Michael Allkins and his wife, Linda Hirvonen, as professional citizens in our region of the country.

I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Michael Allkins on his retirement and in thanking him and Linda for their commitment to education and our communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF LANCE CORPORAL RYAN S. MILLER'S SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Lance Corporal Ryan S. Miller, United States Marine Corps, for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for superior performance of duty while serving as the Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's Color Detail at Twentynine Palms, California.

Lance Corporal Miller was responsible for posting the Combat Center's colors on a daily basis. As a result of his leadership, motivation, and attention to detail, the Color Detail accomplished its mission in an exemplary manner. Lance Corporal Miller has performed a great duty to our country. Lance Corporal Miller's Certificate of Appreciation is a permanent part of his official record at Headquarters, United States Marine Corps.

A 2004 graduate of Edward S. Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas, in the heart of the 26th Congressional District, Lance Corporal Miller is a fine example of how brave Americans stationed both in the United States and abroad are doing their duty faithfully and serving their country admirably.

As a member of the United States Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Miller is a part of a long tradition of military excellence. Due to the Marine's constant vigilance, the borders and freedoms of the United States are protected. The traditions of the United States Marine Corps are as old as the nation itself; Lance Corporal Miller's outstanding service and respect for traditions make him the pride of his community and a model American.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Lance Corporal Ryan S. Miller for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation. His contributions and service are a shining example to us all, and I am honored to be his representative in Washington.

RECOGNIZING CHANCE BROWN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Chance Brown, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Chance has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Chance has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Chance Brown for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

NEW YORK NEEDS THE MONEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, with Secretary Michael Chertoff's decision to cut Federal anti-terror funding for both New York and Washington, DC, I would like to introduce an editorial printed in the Daily News on June 7, 2006, that encourages the executive branch to put pressure on the Department of Homeland Security to rectify this decision. The editorial, titled Get N.Y. the money, Mr. President, discusses the extremely negative reception this decision has received.

Both former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani and former chairman of the 9/11 commission, Tom Kean, two of the most knowledgeable men on protecting our country from terrorism, claim that New York, as the premier target of terrorist attacks, needs to implement several anti-terror programs in order to completely protect itself. The intended programs included an effort to prepare the fire department to adeptly handle multiple attacks at once, to allocate funding to the NYPD counterterrorism bureau which interprets threats to the city, and to create systems that can detect radiation in the water and air.

In deciding how to best allocate homeland security funds, Secretary Chertoff used a complicated scoring system that resulted in the funding of information dissemination and consequently the rejection of funds required for protecting New York. This editorial endorses an effort to demonstrate the importance of protecting both New York and Washington, DC. The Daily News editors argue correctly that President Bush is the only person with the authority to do this.

The House Homeland Security Committee's chairman, PETER KING, joined by the entire New York delegation in the House and Senate has made spirited efforts to reverse the decision to reduce the allocation to New York. More money is needed for New York, and I certainly hope that the Department of Homeland Security recognizes this as soon as possible.

Therefore I submit for the RECORD an editorial from the June 7, 2006, issue of the Daily News for our consideration.

GET N.Y. THE MONEY, MR. PRESIDENT

No less an authority than Rudy Giuliani has rendered the ultimate verdict on the Department of Homeland Security's decision to slash New York City's federal anti-terror funding. Plainly and simply, Giuliani sees incompetence.

Similarly, Tom Kean, former chairman of the 9/11 commission, says the department turned thumbs down on paying for exemplary programs that "should be a model for the nation." Kean also questioned the wisdom of allowing Homeland Security to base its dollar allocations on the work of anonymous panels operating in secret.

When it comes to emergency preparedness, Giuliani and Kean are two of the smartest guys around. Having studied the war on terror up close, they are experts in the extraordinarily broad range of defenses that a city like New York, the world's No. 1 terror target, must mount if we are to have a chance at fending off disaster.

New Yorkers aren't as versed in the best ways to link emergency communications, or how to pick up radioactivity, or what to make of intelligence reports flowing from abroad—but New Yorkers do have finely tuned B.S. detectors. And so do all the late-night comics who are ridiculing Secretary Michael Chertoff's incompetence. Which starts with the rules his bureaucrats established for selecting anti-terror programs that were worthy of funding.

The regs favored buying things over paying for manpower and training, no matter how vital the manpower or training was. So, Chertoff smiles at paying for armored vests for cops, but he frowns at picking up the salaries of the officers who patrol in them. He's happy to buy haz-mat suits for firefighters, but he doesn't want to train firefighters to wear them.

The shortsighted, wrongheaded outrageousness of Chertoff's thinking screams forth when you run down just some of the ways the city had hoped to spend U.S. anti-terror money. There were plans to:

Prepare the Fire Department to face multiple chemical, biological or nuclear attacks.

Provide continuing emergency response training to firefighters and fire officers.

Devote funding to the NYPD counterterrorism bureau, which analyzes threats, and Operation Atlas, which puts as many as 1,000 anti-terror cops on the street daily.

Boost security for the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro bridges.

Create a lower Manhattan security zone, complete with surveillance cameras.

Develop a broadband wireless communication system for public safety agencies across the metropolitan area.

Set up systems to detect radiation and bio-hazards in the air and water and gauge their movement in winds and currents.

Draft an isolation and quarantine program to be used in an epidemic outbreak.

Buy a boat to enable the FDNY to respond to a chemical, biological or radiation attack by water.

Using a half-baked scoring system as complex as the Tax Code, Chertoff's evaluators gave top marks to a program to disseminate emergency readiness information to the public, including pet owners, while flunking the NYPD counterterrorism center. Nothing could better sum up how disconnected from reality Homeland Security was.

Yet Chertoff is holding fast in refusing to put federal funding where it really belongs. That's in New York and Washington, which also suffered a 40% cut in aid. He needs to change his mind, or be made to change his mind, and all his nutty rules must go. Only one person has the power to compel such action: President Bush.

Rep. Pete King, chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, said yesterday that if Chertoff doesn't come up with more money for New York, he'll take the matter to Bush. That's good, but King shouldn't have to storm the Oval Office. Bush, who has refrained from canning Chertoff, should

order him to rectify his incompetence post-haste.

TRIBUTE TO THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise on this Flag Day to commend a group of my constituents who are, in their own unique way, honoring our troops and offering comfort to our war injured servicemen and servicewomen.

Most people have never heard of Atlanta, Michigan. However, just because the town is small in population, does not mean it is not big on patriotism. This was demonstrated most recently by the area's Thunder Bay Quilt Guild.

The Thunder Bay Quilt Guild is a group of area women who meet every Thursday to work on quilting projects. Sometimes the quilters work on their own individual projects, but often there is a special project these quilters eagerly undertake.

In the past, the Guild has assisted a variety of important charities. For instance, the Guild has sewn quilts for use in neonatal hospitals to keep children between birth and four years of age warm during their stay in the hospital.

While these dedicated quilters often do admirable work, most recently the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild paid tribute to our fighting men and women who have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan and could use some basic comfort. Already, the Guild has prepared and shipped 60 "Hero Quilts" to Walter Reed Hospital where they are being distributed to troops who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with injuries.

Each quilt is sewn with a red, white and blue pattern and has affixed to it a simple message that reads, "This Hero's Quilt was made for you by members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild. It comes with our prayers for your recovery and our heartfelt thanks for your service to our country."

Approximately 60 women belong to the Guild and pitched in on this effort, delivering to our troops a simple reminder that, back home, they are remembered and recognized as heroes.

The impetus for this idea came from Cathy McIntee, another Michigan native who had friends in the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild. Ms. McIntee's son is currently serving in Iraq and Ms. McIntee designed the first "Hero Quilt." The members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild then rallied together in support of the cause and began sewing quilts for wounded heroes for delivery to Walter Reed.

Mr. Speaker, quilting enjoys a rich heritage in American history. As the activity has evolved over the years, quilting has become a way to bring people in a community together through quilting guilds or "quilting bees." Quilting is also a way to honor and preserve American history. Many of these organizations are extremely altruistic, generously donating their work to charities, the needy and others.

Clearly, the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild exemplifies that tradition. Their "Hero Quilts" are an impressive example of how even a small community, when inspired and united, can lend support to those who need it most.

As one might expect, the members of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild are modest about their contributions. As JoEllen Moulton, one of their leading members remarked, "Others have given so much more than us."

Nonetheless, for the wounded servicemen and servicewomen at Walter Reed hospital, I am certain that the arrival of a handmade quilt was a pleasant surprise and a source of comfort. This contribution from the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild in the small town of Atlanta, Michigan was, indeed, a big accomplishment and, Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the U.S. House of Representatives to join me on this Flag Day in thanking these patriotic, dedicated quilters for their work.

RECOGNIZING LANDON CRAWFORD
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Landon Crawford, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Landon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Landon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Landon Crawford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

KOFI ANNAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON
IMMIGRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an article by Mr. Kofi A. Annan, the secretary general of the United Nations. In the article, titled *In Praise of Migration*, published in the *Wall Street Journal* on June 6, 2006, Mr. Annan extols the benefits of transnational migration for both the country of origin and the receiving country.

In receiving countries migrants perform essential tasks that residents are unwilling to undertake. Generally they pay more to the state in taxes than they take out in welfare and other benefits. "Nearly half the increase in the number of migrants aged 25 or over in industrialized countries was made up of highly skilled people" who have added talent and dexterity to our economy by strengthening the workforce.

Migrants strengthen the economy of their country of origin as well. "Migrants sent remittances, which totaled around \$232 billion last year, \$167 billion of which went to developing countries—greater in volume than current lev-

els of official aid from all donor countries combined"—that are vital contributions to economy of the nation of origin. Migrants also encourage investment in their country of origin and are generally willing to supervise and direct these endeavors, leading to increased trade relations.

Irregular or undocumented migrants are most vulnerable to smugglers, traffickers, and other forms of manipulation. If the host government chooses to criminalize those who assist these people in the name of humanity, they will completely be at the mercy of such exploitations. Essentially, we are throwing them to the wolves with the proposed House passed immigration bill. While immigration is not without drawbacks, I condemn the inhumane policies proposed by the bill passed by the House.

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, June 6, 2006]

IN PRAISE OF MIGRATION—NATIONS THAT
WELCOME IMMIGRANTS ARE THE MOST DY-
NAMIC IN THE WORLD

(By Kofi A. Annan)

Ever since national frontiers were invented, people have been crossing them—not just to visit foreign countries, but to live and work there. In doing so, they have almost always taken risks, driven by a determination to overcome adversity and to live a better life. Those aspirations have always been the motors of human progress. Historically, migration has improved the well-being, not only of individual migrants, but of humanity as a whole.

And that is still true. In a report that I am presenting tomorrow to the U.N. General Assembly, I summarize research which shows that migration, at least in the best cases, benefits not only the migrants themselves but also the countries that receive them, and even the countries they have left. How so? In receiving countries, incoming migrants do essential jobs which a country's established residents are reluctant to undertake. They provide many of the personal services on which societies depend. They care for children, the sick and the elderly, bring in the harvest, prepare the food, and clean the homes and offices.

They are not engaged only in menial activities. Nearly half the increase in the number of migrants aged 25 or over in industrialized countries in the 1990s was made up of highly skilled people. Skilled or unskilled, many are entrepreneurs who start new businesses—from round-the-clock delis to Google. Yet others are artists, performers and writers, who help to make their new hometowns centers of creativity and culture. Migrants also expand the demand for goods and services, add to national production, and generally pay more to the state in taxes than they take out in welfare and other benefits. And in regions like Europe, where populations are growing very slowly or not at all, younger workers arriving from abroad help to shore up underfunded pension systems.

All in all, countries that welcome migrants and succeed in integrating them into their societies are among the most dynamic—economically, socially and culturally—in the world.

Meanwhile, countries of origin benefit from the remittances that migrants send home, which totaled around \$232 billion last year, \$167 billion of which went to developing countries—greater in volume than current levels of official aid from all donor countries combined, though certainly not a substitute. Not only do the immediate recipients benefit from these remittances, but also those who supply the goods and services on which the

money is spent. The effect is to raise national income and stimulate investment.

Families with members working abroad spend more on education and health care at home. If they are poor—like the family in the classic Senegalese film, "*Le Mandat*"—receiving remittances may introduce them to financial services, such as banks, credit unions and microfinance institutions. More and more governments understand that their citizens abroad can help development, and are strengthening ties with them. By allowing dual citizenship, permitting overseas voting, expanding consular services and working with migrants to develop their home communities, governments are multiplying the benefits of migration. In some countries, migrant associations are transforming their communities of origin by sending collective remittances to support small-scale development projects.

Successful migrants often become investors in their countries of origin, and encourage others to follow. Through the skills they acquire, they also help transfer technology and knowledge. India's software industry has emerged in large part from intensive networking among expatriates, returning migrants and Indian entrepreneurs both at home and abroad. After working in Greece, Albanians bring home new agricultural skills that allow them to increase production. And so on.

Yes, migration can have its downside—though ironically some of the worst effects arise from efforts to control it: It is irregular or undocumented migrants who are most vulnerable to smugglers, traffickers and other forms of exploitation. Yes, there are tensions when established residents and migrants are adjusting to each other, especially when their beliefs, customs or level of education are very different. And yes, poor countries suffer when some of their people whose skills are most needed—for instance health-care workers from southern Africa—are "drained" away by higher salaries and better conditions abroad.

But countries are learning to manage those problems, and they can do so better if they work together and learn from each other's experience. That is the object of the "high-level dialogue" on migration and development that the General Assembly is holding this September. No country will be asked or expected to yield control of its borders or its policies to anyone else. But all countries and all governments can gain from discussion and the exchange of ideas. That's why I hope the September dialogue will be a beginning, not an end.

As long as there are nations, there will be migrants. Much as some might wish it otherwise, migration is a fact of life. So it is not a question of stopping migration, but of managing it better, and with more cooperation and understanding on all sides. Far from being a zero-sum game, migration can be made to yield benefits for all.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD, PROMOTING MARRIAGE, AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY ON FATHER'S DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 318 which promotes responsible fatherhood. I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution but an even prouder father of three. My children are the joy of my life and my wife Vicki and I have thoroughly enjoyed each stage of their lives as they have grown up. I would like to encourage all fathers to realize the impact we have on our children. It is imperative that we not only love our wives as Jesus Christ loved His church, but that we show that love to our children. Our children must be our priorities, and that is exceedingly hard in this world. I challenge all of us fathers to work at maintaining a loving and active relationship with our children.

Whether it is attending sporting events, going hunting and fishing, or playing guitar with your children, Almighty God has placed in our lives the gift of children and we must honor Him by our example. My own father is a man of God and an example to me of a godly leader and solid Christian. Thank you, Dad, for the impact you have been in my life and the lives of my children. Happy Father's Day.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY LLOYD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey Lloyd, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeffrey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeffrey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeffrey Lloyd for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 261, on ordering the previous question on the role for Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia and Independent Agencies FY 2007. While I was recorded as "yea" on the vote, I intended to cast a "no" vote on rollcall No. 261.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE HARRIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I am writing in regards to yesterday's vote ordering the previous question on the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. During the vote on the previous question, roll no. 261, I inadvertently voted "yes," but intended to vote "no."

RECOGNIZING CLINT RICHARD SON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clint Richardson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clint has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Clint has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clint Richardson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the LaTourette amendment. I would like to enter into the RECORD the following article from the Wall Street Journal that depicts the changes that Amtrak has implemented on Montana's own Empire Builder Line, the most popular long distance train in the United States.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 17, 2006]

AMTRAK ON AN UPGRADE

(By Daniel Machalaba)

SHELBY, MONT.—Karyn Hamilton, like many Amtrak riders, had a dim view of the nation's passenger railroad as low-class, uncomfortable and not much better than a bus. But the marketing director of a financial-management firm in Portland, Ore., changed her mind during a trip last August on the Empire Builder, an Amtrak long-distance train undergoing a dramatic makeover that includes new carpeting and colors, pleasant staff, and upgraded food service. As the silver, diesel-powered train rolled across the prairie, Ms. Hamilton and other first-class passengers were treated to a wine-and-cheese tasting party. They dined on meals made with recipes drawn from the bygone heyday of train travel. At bedtime, she found a fresh-baked chocolate-chip cookie in her spiffed-up sleeping cabin. "It's getting more like a cruise ship," Ms. Hamilton says. After years of financial and political crisis, Amtrak is making a calculated gamble: To boost revenue on its longer-haul trains, the railroad is altering its longstanding one-size-fits-all approach to passengers. Instead, it is courting affluent leisure travelers willing to pay extra for first-class, sleeping-car service. (The differential is substantial. Fares vary by season and day of the week, but if someone were planning to travel, for example, on April 16, a one-way coach fare from Chicago to Seattle would cost \$134 for the two-night trip. First-class passengers would pay the basic coach fare plus another \$270 for a roomette or \$466 for a bedroom.)

The changes began with a major makeover of the Empire Builder last summer. Now, Amtrak plans to extend the changes to some other long-haul trains, while also attacking union work rules and bloated food-service expenses. Amtrak's board also is considering cuts to its headquarters overhead by streamlining repair shops, maintenance operations, reservation call centers and train stations.

The shakeup is an acknowledgment by Amtrak officials that they are running out of chances to stave off pressure from the Bush administration to break up or even liquidate the federally subsidized—and unprofitable—railroad. "We're living on borrowed time,"

says David Laney, Amtrak's chairman. "We have to demonstrate what we can do on our own before it is taken out of our hands."

Last year, the Bush administration proposed eliminating subsidies to Amtrak, which has been kept afloat with \$30 billion in federal aid since 1971, according to the Department of Transportation. While Congress approved \$1.3 billion in funding for the current fiscal year, the Bush administration latest budget request includes \$900 million—a 31% cut—for fiscal 2007. And the DOT would hold back nearly half of the money until Amtrak demonstrated continued progress on reform. Yesterday, Amtrak said it would ask Congress for \$1.598 billion for fiscal 2007, almost all the increase for capital spending.

As part of the do-or-die overhaul, Mr. Laney fired Amtrak President David Gunn last November. Mr. Gunn had been widely praised for stabilizing Amtrak's finances, jumpstarting repairs to the Northeast Corridor and restoring credibility with Congress. But Mr. Laney, a Dallas lawyer and Republican loyalist appointed to the Amtrak board in 2002, concluded that Mr. Gunn was standing in the way of more-drastic reforms. Mr. Gunn says he was fired because he opposed the Bush administration's Amtrak strategy.

Mr. Laney says the next crucial step for Amtrak is to fix some notorious customer-service problems, ranging from dirty cars to unhelpful and rude onboard employees. About 30% of all Amtrak trains are late. Rep. John Mica, a Republican from Florida and longtime Amtrak critic, complains Amtrak can "rival some of the Third World and former Soviet Union rail experiences." Mr. Laney acknowledges that passenger service by Amtrak is "in some cases superb and in some cases miserable."

The restructuring likely puts Amtrak on a collision course with its 17,000 unionized workers, two-thirds of whom haven't had a new contract for about five years. Amtrak officials estimate union restrictions cost the railroad about \$100 million a year. Edward Wytkind, president of the AFL-CIO union's Transportation Trades Department, said in a statement that the Bush administration's reform effort is an attempt to "scapegoat workers for the failures of the federal government and the current Amtrak board."

Some of Amtrak's worst problems are beyond its control. Formed to relieve freight railroads of money-losing passenger trains, Amtrak shares nearly 22,000 miles of track with the freight trains, and congestion is worsening. Still, Amtrak believes better service will lure riders and shrink losses on long-distance lines. On long-distance routes that are primarily used by passengers for basic transportation, starting with the Texas Eagle and the City of New Orleans, the railroad is rolling out a new type of dining service that makes greater use of precooked meals and introduces disposable plastic plates. Those changes are designed to cut the number of dining-car employees to three per train from five or six.

Meanwhile, Amtrak is replacing mandatory meal-serving periods with more flexible hours. Over the next few years, it plans to rebuild dining cars to replace traditional table seating and allow passengers to sit at the bar or watch passing scenery from crescent-shaped booths that face the windows. Meal service will then be available as much as 18 hours a day, up from about eight hours now, allowing Amtrak to serve more people and boost revenue. Amtrak hopes to cut \$32 million from its annual food-service loss of \$123 million.

The Empire Builder is the rolling laboratory for some of the changes. The train, which made its first trip in 1929, is one of Amtrak's most popular, carrying nearly

500,000 riders a year. During the daily 2,200-mile trek between Chicago, Seattle and Portland, Ore., the Empire Builder chugs past spectacular scenery. Its on-time record is about 68%, and it posted an average loss of \$78.57 per passenger in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

While the Empire Builder is so far sticking with the traditional dining-car format, staffing level and made-to-order food, its added amenities and upgraded service are noticeable. Amtrak put a small fleet of rebuilt passenger cars with hip blue-and-white interiors on the line—a big improvement over the drab orange and brown that dominated older cars. Employees now must introduce themselves to passengers. Conductors must stay up all night in the dining car in case they are needed.

So far, the Empire Builder makeover appears to be enticing more passengers, particularly during the off-season when ridership typically declines. But David Hughes, Amtrak's acting president, says it is impossible to ever make long-distance trains like the Empire Builder profitable. Those trains are expected to generate \$382 million in fiscal 2006, or about one-fourth of overall Amtrak revenue, but post losses of more than \$493 million, or about \$125 for every passenger.

IN MEMORY OF PERRY RICHARDSON BASS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the leading citizens of District 12 and the Fort Worth community that I serve, Perry Richardson Bass. On June 1, 2006 Mr. Bass died at his home at the age of 91. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram aptly described Mr. Bass as "a Texas oilman who turned his riches into philanthropic gold for Fort Worth, the state and the nation." Mr. Bass's legacy continues in his four sons—Sid, Ed, Robert and Lee—who, in their own right, are business leaders and philanthropists.

Those of us who knew Mr. Bass had an incredible opportunity to see how a man who had worked in the West Texas oil fields had come to be a legend not only in the oil business, but also in the world of high finance, civic and public service endeavors, and the arts. Mr. Bass touched the lives of millions of people in Fort Worth, in Texas and in the United States. Sometimes he did this in dramatic fashion, as with the creation of the marvelous Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth to which he and his family made a major financial contribution, and other times, he did it in untold ways so people's lives could be bettered.

Mr. Bass was born on November 11, 1914 in Wichita Falls, TX. He was the son of Dr. E.P. Bass, who left an East Texas medical practice for the oil industry, and Annie Richardson Bass. After attending a boarding school in Pennsylvania, Mr. Bass earned a science degree in geology from Yale University in 1937. Mr. Bass became enamored with the Texas oil business as a teen when he assisted his uncle, Sid Richardson, also a legendary Texas oilman. After Yale, Mr. Bass joined his uncle as a business advisor and they formed the Richardson & Bass Co. Upon

the death of Mr. Richardson, Mr. Bass created Bass Brothers Enterprises which he operated on behalf of himself and his four sons until 1991 when his oldest son, Sid, took control of the company. Bass Brothers Enterprises flourished into one of America's most successful companies with a wide array of business interests that at one time included a major stake in the Walt Disney Companies. Mr. Bass also was chair of the Sid Richardson Foundation, created by Mr. Richardson, which has been a generous benefactor of District 12, Texas and the Nation.

While he will be remembered for many accomplishments as a superb businessman, Mr. Bass said his proudest accomplishment was his service on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission that he chaired. During his tenure on the commission, he was instrumental in the creation of numerous wildlife conservation efforts. Mr. Bass and his family rightfully are credited with transforming downtown Fort Worth into one of the most vibrant downtowns in the U.S. through the construction of high-rise office buildings, the renovation of turn-of-the-century storefronts and by introducing innovative downtown housing. Mr. Bass demonstrated his love of the arts by not only generously funding the arts, but also by serving as a member of the National Gallery of Art's Trustees' Council.

Mr. Bass's life will be best remembered for two things: the love of his family and his generosity. Mr. Bass described his beloved wife Nancy Lee Bass and their four sons as the greatest treasures of his life. He also called his sons Sid, Ed, Robert and Lee his greatest accomplishment. His sons have followed in their father's footsteps by their generosity, creativity, sharp business sense and love of community. Mr. Bass also felt that he should share his successes through his generosity. Nothing epitomizes this deeply held belief than a decision by Mr. and Mrs. Bass to mark their 50th wedding anniversary by contributing \$50 million to 50 institutions and organizations.

Mr. Bass's great business skills, his love of wildlife, his generous philanthropy, his absolute devotion to his wife Nancy Lee Bass and sons Sid, Ed, Robert and Lee and their families, and his visions have resulted in a better Fort Worth, a better Texas and a better United States. It is with humility that I honor Perry Richardson Bass as a great American who used his skills and treasures wisely. Mr. Bass will be missed but not forgotten.

RECOGNIZING CODY NICHOLS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cody Nichols, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cody has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cody has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous

merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cody Nichols for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE PORT OF BALTIMORE ON ITS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Port of Baltimore on its 300th Anniversary.

Baltimore and the state of Maryland are home to some of the most cherished and enduring symbols of our Nation.

It was during the War of 1812 that Francis Scott Key while sequestered on a boat off the shores of Fort McHenry in Baltimore was inspired by the American Flag to write our National Anthem, the Star Spangled Banner. It was also during that war that Fort McHenry protected the City of Baltimore and the Port of Baltimore.

I believe that today, Flag Day, is an appropriate day to recognize the Port of Baltimore on its 300th Anniversary.

Established in 1706, the Port of Baltimore is here today because it was successfully defended by the American soldiers and militiamen at Fort McHenry and North Point during the War of 1812.

Today, the Port of Baltimore is one of America's busiest international deepwater ports and serves as a critical anchor for Baltimore and the Inner Harbor. It is also an economic engine for the state. From cars to tractors, from coal to paper, from sugar to aluminum, the Port of Baltimore handles 400,000 containers a year filled with goods that help us in our everyday lives. The Port employs more than 19,000 people, supports more than 42,000 jobs related to the maritime industry, and generates more than \$2 billion in revenue annually.

A busy Port has ensured a buzzing economy and more jobs for Maryland residents. The hard work and dedication of Baltimore's port workers together with the support of local, state, and federal leaders have ensured that the Port will be a success today as well as tomorrow.

It is impossible to comment on the success of the Port of Baltimore without recognizing the strong commitment to the Port by former Congresswoman Helen Delich Bently. Recently Governor Robert J. Ehrlich, Jr. of Maryland announced that the Port will be renamed the "Helen Delich Bently Port of Baltimore." Former Congresswoman Bently served in the United States House of Representatives from 1985–1995 representing Maryland's Second Congressional District and has since become one of the Port's most staunch supporters.

In honor of the Port of Baltimore, I am introducing a resolution, with the support of the entire Maryland Delegation in the House, to honor the Port of Baltimore on its 300th Anniversary.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the Maryland Delegation and honor the Port of Baltimore on this patriotic day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 12, 2006, I was unable to fly to Washington, D.C. for votes. As a result, I missed votes on this day and some votes before returning Tuesday, June 13, 2006. I would have voted on the following rollcall votes, had I been present.

Monday, June 12, 2006:

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: 362–1 (Roll Call 251). Recognizing the 17th anniversary of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: 362–1 (Roll Call 252). Condemning the unauthorized, inappropriate, and coerced ordination of Catholic bishops by the People's Republic of China.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: 363–1 (Roll Call 253). Condemning the escalating levels of religious persecution in the People's Republic of China.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree: 364–0 (Roll Call 254). Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the activities of Islamist terrorist organizations in the Western Hemisphere.

AYE: On Ordering the Previous Question: 204–165 (Roll Call 255). Waiving points of order against consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: 409–0 (Roll Call 256). Commending the Government of Canada for its renewed commitment to the Global War on Terror.

AYE: On Agreeing to the Conference Report: 351–67 (Roll Call 257). Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AYE: On Agreeing to the Resolution: 221–194 (Roll Call 258). Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: 415–1 (Roll Call 259). To provide for certain access to national crime information databases by schools and educational agencies for employment purposes, with respect to individuals who work with children.

AYE: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: 407–0 (Roll Call 260). Supporting responsible fatherhood, promoting marriage, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

RECOGNIZING JOSH SUTTON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Josh Sutton, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 102, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Josh has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Josh has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Josh Sutton for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 17, 2006

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we must encourage the development of new mine safety technologies and not hinder advances. Remember that when an accident occurs underground all power is shut off and our miners are working in the dark, perhaps unaware of what has taken place, and under stressful conditions.

Recent discussions about advancing mine safety technology have focused on a few distinct areas including self-contained self-rescuers, emergency shelters, two-way communications equipment, tracking devices, and lifelines.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the references to self-contained self-rescuers in section 2 and section 6 of S. 2803. It is important to clarify that in no way should the requirements under section 2 discourage improving the design of self-contained self-rescuers.

A self-contained self-rescuer, SCSR, is a respiratory device used by miners for the purpose of escape during mine fires and explosions; it provides the wearer a closed-circuit supply of breathable air for a period of time that varies from model to model.

While the current MSHA regulations require that miners be provided with SCSRs that protect for a least 1 hour, some SCSRs on the market provide longer protection, approaching 2 hours, and research is under way to develop longer lasting SCSRs.

Mr. Speaker, in a 2001 study, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, reported that out of 214 miners surveyed 38 percent had been notified to evacuate a mine because of fire or explosion during their career. Data provided by the U.S.

Mine Rescue Association indicates that the depletion of oxygen and the production of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide cause more fatalities than all other causes combined.

Access to and proper operation of SCSRs is a matter of life and death to miners.

The Office of Mine Safety and Health is established by section 6 of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. The purpose of this office is to enhance the development of new mine safety technology and to expedite its commercial availability and implementations.

Mr. Speaker, section 2 of S. 2803 describes the components of an emergency response plan every coal mine must follow should an accident occur. Section 2(E)(iii)(II), refers to the hour of breathable air required by MSHA's new emergency temporary standard in addition to the hour already required by the mandatory SCSR standard. Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, the provision requires additional "caches of self-rescuers providing in the aggregate not less than 2 hours per miner to be kept in escapeways from the deepest work area to the surface at a distance of no further than an average miner could walk in 30 minutes."

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that in placing the SCSRs the average distance that a miner can walk in 30 minutes may unintentionally discourage technical advances. I am also worried that the provision in this act may unintentionally result in less safety should it result in encouraging miners in emergency situations to remove SCSRs before they are depleted and struggle to don new SCSRs in smoke-filled or other toxic atmospheres. It is not our intention to lock, either, the Secretary of Labor, miners, or their employers into a misguided one-size-fits-all solution. It is my intent that the Secretary would accommodate performance-based determinations of self-contained self-rescuer locations, and not discourage development and deployment of advanced self-contained self-rescuer technologies that provide greater amounts of breathable air than currently available devices, which would protect miners for longer and would require fewer changes from a depleted unit to a fresh unit in hazardous atmospheres.

Mr. Speaker, I would also encourage the Secretary to allow the use of appropriately constructed self-rescue transfer stations to be built in common locations between two parallel and adjacent escapeways. Providing a safe place to abandon old SCSRs and don new equipment during an evacuation will also improve the survivability of the miner.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES
McCLATCHY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to Jim McClatchy, a legend within the newspaper business who helped set the standards for journalism in northern California and across the globe. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his life at a funeral service next week, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jim McClatchy

for his service to our Nation, to journalism and to the Sacramento community.

The son of C.K. and Phebe McClatchy, Jim McClatchy was born into a family steeped in journalistic tradition. Early on it was clear he would follow his great-grandfather, grandfather and father into the newspaper business. His studies at Stanford University were interrupted by World War II where Jim served our Nation in the Army Air Corps. Jim returned from World War II, completed his Stanford education and went on to earn a Master's in Journalism from Columbia University.

Jim made his mark as a hard-working reporter with both the Sacramento Bee and the Fresno Bee. Early in his career, he covered subjects ranging from State politics to education and advanced through the ranks to the Bee's Washington Bureau where he covered the 1956 presidential election and Congress. While serving the public as a reporter, Jim continued to serve our Nation in the Army Reserves and was called to duty during the Korean War.

In 1980, Jim became Chairman of the Board of McClatchy Newspapers and in 1987 he was elevated to Publisher. He served on the company's board until his retirement in 2004. Throughout his tenure, McClatchy newspapers received numerous Pulitzer Prizes, advancing the family's commitment to excellence in journalism.

Jim's commitment extended beyond Sacramento and the McClatchy family of papers to strengthening the international free press. Jim worked with the Inter American Press Association in 1994 to help write the Declaration of Chapultepec, a document that established the role of a free press in democratic societies. Dozens of heads of state signed the Declaration of Chapultepec, including President Clinton.

Closer to home, Jim was instrumental in actively planning the Central Valley's future. He led the drive to create Valley Vision, a non-profit that facilitates discussions to solve regional problems. Jim also created an endowment in the name of his mother to support the classics and bilingual education at California State University, Fresno, where he received an honorary doctorate just weeks before his passing.

Mr. Speaker, as Jim McClatchy's family, friends and colleagues gather to honor his legacy, I am privileged to request that the U.S. House of Representatives commemorate his life as a patriot, a community servant and man who always strove for the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RESIGNATION OF UNITED NA-
TIONS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GEN-
ERAL MARK MALLOCH BROWN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I call for the immediate resignation of United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Mark Malloch Brown.

Last week, Mark Malloch Brown, the U.N.'s number two man behind Secretary-General Kofi Annan, gave an anti-American speech at a left-wing seminar.

The event, entitled, Power and Superpower: Global Leadership in the 21st Century was sponsored by the Century Foundation and the Center for American Progress, which receives funding from the Blame-America-First-Expert, George Soros.

At the event, Malloch Brown derided America's foreign policy objectives and accused American news journalists, such as Rush Limbaugh and those at Fox News channel of detracting and misleading U.N. successes, especially with stealth diplomacy in Middle America. In effect, he criticized Middle America—inferring we don't understand the U.N. and are being manipulated.

Malloch Brown's comments were completely out of line and unwarranted. He singled out a U.N. member-State, the United States, outside of normal protocol, derided the U.S. and its leading contributions to the U.N. reform effort, and involved himself and the U.N. in internal U.S. politics.

I do not have to remind Mark Malloch Brown that the United States provides one quarter of the entire U.N. budget and there are serious calls in Congress, that I believe we should consider, to withhold all future funding to the U.N. until accountable, effective and transparent reform is achieved.

If the United Nations is serious about reform, it has to reform itself from the inside. And that is why, today, I call on Mark Malloch Brown to immediately step down as Deputy Secretary-General, for the good of the United Nations as well as for the pride of the American people.

The United States cannot have faith in the U.N. if its senior leaders have such a biased opinion of the people and policies of the United States.

OPPOSITION TO CURRENT SYSTEM
OF AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASES
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the current system of automatic pay increases for Members of Congress. This system does not allow for a clear up or down vote on the annual cost-of-living increase in Members' salaries.

This increase is conducted in a manner that only serves to increase cynicism towards the political process and confirms the feeling of many voters that their representatives are out of touch. The American public deserves better. Kansans deserve to see whether or not I support a pay increase. So I would like to share that my vote would be against a salary increase.

The need for a cost-of-living adjustment is not limited to Members of Congress, it also includes the public—veterans, teachers, farmers, the retired. These people, who we represent, deserve responsible government and Congress should not receive an automatic cost-of-living increase during these challenging economic times.

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF
TOMORROW

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I salute our soldiers, marines, seamen, and airmen of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third District of Texas. This district of Texas is home to some of the best and the brightest young people. It is always a tremendous honor to recommend such fine students to our nation's service academies.

Each year, thousands of students apply to these prestigious academies, but only the cream of the crop makes the cut. I am very proud of these future leaders. Their appointments truly are a testimony to their hard work, discipline and strong desire to serve our country.

While they passed the rigors of the nomination and appointment process, the real test has just begun! In just weeks these fine students will report in to begin an intensive basic training program before they begin a tough, and gratifying, four-year education. They have such exciting futures ahead of them. I know they are ready to join the premier military force of the world. To the appointees I say, "God bless you. God bless America. I salute you."

The appointees and their hometowns are as follows:

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY: John Kottlowski—McKinney, Texas—McKinney North High School, Preston Pham—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Colin Skowronski—Plano, Texas—Plano East Senior High School, Anil Tilbe—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School.

UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY: Lindsay Atwood—Garland, Texas—North Garland High School, Jacqueline Juhn—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY: Ridge Flick—Plano, Texas—Plano West Senior High School, Daniel Fulcoy—Plano, Texas—Plano Senior High School, Mallory Morgan—Parker, Texas—Pecan Orchard Academy, Vanessa Warwick—Plano, Texas—Ursuline Academy.

UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY: John Toretto—Plano, Texas—Bishop Lynch High School.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG
POLITICAL LEADERS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) as the organization celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Since 1966, ACYPL has provided bipartisan international exchange programs, educational forums, and leadership training in order to better prepare young political leaders for future positions of responsibility in local, state, and

federal government. ACYPL's programs offer young leaders, some who may have never traveled outside the United States, the opportunity to enhance their awareness and understanding of other cultures through in-depth study tours.

Founded during the Cold War, the organization's efforts initially focused on Western Europe. Over the past four decades, however, ACYPL programs have expanded to include over 90 nations throughout the world, including the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim.

Many of ACYPL's more than six thousand alumni worldwide have risen to positions of great responsibility. In the United States, alumni include members of Congress, the Cabinet, ambassadors, and many senior level officials who serve in local, state, and national government. Internationally, past participants of ACYPL programs now serve as cabinet members, ambassadors, parliamentarians and as other senior level policymakers. Establishing early relationships among such future leaders helps facilitate international dialogue and strengthen and promote U.S. policy objectives.

As an alumnus of an ACYPL program to the then Soviet Union in the 1970s, I can attest to the effectiveness of citizen-to-citizen exchanges in fostering cross-cultural understanding and cultivating international ties among young political leaders. I applaud ACYPL's work over the past decades and wish them continued success in future efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's rollcall votes on final passage of H. Res. 794, H. Res. 804, H. Res. 608, and H. Con. Res. 338; and on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 857.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these measures.

CONCERNING DESECRATION OF
HMONG GRAVE IN THAILAND

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Royal Thai Government to immediately cease any further destruction of Hmong burial sites and stop the exhumation of Hmong graves located inside and surrounding Wat Thamkrabok monastery. Furthermore, I would ask that the Royal Thai Government address the serious plight of Hmong-American families that I represent who no longer know where their loved ones' remains are located.

Mr. Speaker, between 1995 and 2003 many Hmong families living in Thailand as refugees from Laos had buried their deceased loved ones in the Wat Thamkrabok sanctuary. In

December 2003, the U.S. Department of State announced the last resettlement of 15,000 Hmong refugees residing in the Wat Thamkrabok monastery, which concluded last year by bringing nearly 5,000 new arrivals to Minnesota, a significant number of whom have settled in St. Paul and surrounding communities which I represent.

It has been reported that between November 4 and December 30, 2005, approximately 900 Hmong graves were exhumed with the human remains taken to unknown destinations. Hmong-American families were shocked and profoundly disturbed to see the horrific video images of human remains, possibly of their own loved ones, being treated in a disrespectful and unspeakably offensive manner. To this day, Hmong-Americans remain unable to receive reliable information regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones' remains.

As a Member of Congress representing more than 35,000 Hmong-American constituents, I join them in expressing shock at this disturbing episode. The dignity of their deceased ancestors deserves respect. There can be no doubt that this entire situation has caused considerable anguish and emotional distress to relatives now living in the United States and elsewhere.

The Royal Thai Government is a friend and ally of the United States. Our bilateral relationship is vital and it would be my desire to see a strengthening of all aspects of this relationship. Yet, in Minnesota today, it is very difficult for me to champion this relationship with the pain and distress felt by so many of my constituents as a result of the desecration of their ancestors' graves. Once again, I would urge the Royal Thai Government to work to prevent any further Hmong grave exhumations, while fully investigating the circumstances surrounding this action in order to help facilitate long-lasting healing for those families affected by this terrible situation.

HONORING SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, sixty-four years ago today, a twin-engine Navy PBY-5A amphibious reconnaissance aircraft departed the Naval Air Station on Kodiak Island, Alaska as part of the Kiska Blitz—the bombing of Japanese targets in Kiska Harbor at the western end of the Aleutian Islands. On board were Ensign Robert F. Keller, Aviation Machinist Mate First Class Leland L. Davis, Seaman Second Class Elwin Alford, Seaman Second Class Dee Hall, Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class John H. Hathaway, Aviation Radioman Second Class Robert A. Smith, and Aviation Pilot Third Class Albert J. Gyorf. Flying into a storm of inclement weather and enemy anti-aircraft blasts, the plane was hit and crashed on the side of the Kiska Volcano. None of the crew survived.

In August 1943, the United States successfully retook Kiska Island from the Japanese and the remains of seven men were found amid the wreckage at the crash site. They were buried in a common grave with a wooden marker reading "SEVEN U.S.N. AIRMEN." After the war, the grave could not be located again.

In 2002 a wildlife biologist working in the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge found the wreckage, the grave was located and following positive genetic identification, the bodies were returned to their families. Last month, on May 10, these soldiers were buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

I met the family of Elwin Alford and learned of their lives. Alford and his parents were from the Bogalusa, Louisiana—Sandy Hook, Mississippi area. Leland Davis was from Hinds County, Mississippi and his sister and brother finally have peace. Alford, Davis and their brothers-in-arms gave their lives over six decades ago and we still feel their legacy today. So many families lost their loved ones in the great crusade against German Fascism and Japanese Imperialism. And for many, closure comes very late.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. More than 78,000 Americans are unaccounted for from World War II, another 8,100 from the Korean War and 1,800 from the Vietnam War. But the Accounting Command continues to bring these heroes home and assist with closure for families still bearing the wounds of wars long completed.

Mr. Speaker, today we have brave American men and women fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world against the forces of terror. In Mississippi, we lost another native son, a lion of liberty, just last week. I hope families know that six weeks from now, six months from now, or sixty-four years from now, those sacrifices will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris County Park Commission, located in Morris County, New Jersey, a county I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2006, the Morris County Park Commission is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a reception to honor the men and women who have helped shape the first fifty years of the park system.

Established in 1956, the Morris County Park Commission began its rich history with the dedication of 350 acres as Lewis Morris County Park in Morris Township. Today, the park system has grown to over more than 17,500 acres and is the largest park system in New Jersey. The commission manages 38 facilities including historic sites, golf courses, outdoor education and recreational facilities, arboreta, conservation areas, parks, and 150 miles of trails.

The reputation of the Park Commission and its facilities continues to be one of the best in the nation. More than 3.5 million visitors have taken advantage of the programs, special events, and activities provided by a very professional staff. The park system has a positive impact on the quality of life of every Morris County resident and their families, as well as tens of thousands of visitors. The Park Commissions over the years have preserved valuable open space and cultural resources and promoted tourism, conservation and economic

vitality. Consequently, the commission continues to receive national recognition for its facilities and programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris County Park Commission on its Fiftieth Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was unable to vote on Rollcall Numbers 251 through 262. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Rollcall Numbers 251, 252, 253, 254, 256, 257, 259 and 260, and "no" on Rollcall Numbers 255, 258, 261 and 262.

FLAG DAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today is Flag Day. It was established in 1949 by act of Congress for us to take a day to reflect on our flag and past. I was 10 years old when Congress first established Flag Day and I have over the years come to a better realization of the inextricable connection between patriotism, the flag and our soldiers in the field. I don't believe the costs of preserving our flag have ever been as concrete as they are today. I hope that while reflecting on the Flag today we spend some time thinking about the price that has been paid for our flag, our freedom and our country. While we take a moment to think about our flag we cannot do so without giving thanks for our soldiers in the field and the veterans who served under our flag. Francis Scott Key summed it up perfectly in the Star Spangled Banner:

And the rockets' red glare. The bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2006, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Vote No. 263, LaTourette Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 264, Bean Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 265, Israel Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 266, Miller, Gary Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 267, Nadler Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 268, Davis (AL) Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 269, Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 270, Harris Amendment to

H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 271, Slaughter Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 272, Waters Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no"; Vote No. 273, Hooley Amendment to H.R. 5576—"no".

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and praise Congressman JOHN LEWIS for visiting New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the end of May. Congressman LEWIS described for students and community members his important involvement in the American Civil Rights Movement, and he reminded all of us how we need to find the courage to continue the Movement.

I'd also like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for inviting Congressman LEWIS to speak to the people of New Bedford. The friendship between these two Members of Congress spans more than 40 years, and as Congressman FRANK states, Representative LEWIS continues to be "one of the great moral forces in this country."

Representative LEWIS, a great hero of mine, spoke to 1400-plus students and teachers at New Bedford High School, sharing his experiences growing up in the segregated South, and his eventual involvement with nonviolent protests.

Congressman LEWIS told the students "that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

I would like to place into the RECORD, the following editorial, Timely Message from JOHN LEWIS, which appeared in the June 1, 2006, edition of the New Bedford Standard-Times, which describes why the words of our friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, have such meaning and resonance in all of our communities today.

[From the New Bedford Standard-Times,
New Bedford, MA—June 1, 2006]

TIMELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN LEWIS

Whether it was the hand of the Almighty or simply the good sense of our local congressman, Barney Frank, yesterday's visit to New Bedford by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the great heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement, could not have been timed more perfectly.

The 56-year-old Rep. Lewis, who is the son of a sharecropper born in segregated Alabama, brought a message of hope and healing to a city preparing to bury Bernadette DePina, who was shot to death in her home last week, just days after her 23-year-old son David DePina II's arrest on charges of murdering a 20-year-old man.

Rep. Lewis didn't talk about crime or punishment or politics. He talked about growing up poor in the segregated South, about being inspired as a 15-year-old listening to the radio by the actions of the late Rosa Parks and the soaring words of a young black minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to stand up for the dignity of all and "to find a way to get in the way" of those who would deny others that dignity.

And that's what he did.

Arrested scores of times in nonviolent protest of discriminatory voting practices, segregated schools, lunch counters and public

transportation, he was threatened, beaten, spit upon and hated by Southern whites trying to maintain the legalized segregation of the Jim Crow south. He has faced trouble, counted losses and continued his fight as what Congressman Frank—his friend for more than 40 years—calls “one of the great moral forces in this country.”

“I am not bitter today, and I am not going to be bitter tomorrow,” Rep. Lewis said.

And then he said something important to the community of New Bedford, which some fear has split along racial, ethnic, neighborhood and economic fault lines.

“We are one people,” he said in the soaring voice of the preacher he grew up wanting to be, with the same simple conviction that powered Dr. King. “We all need each other. We all live in that same house.”

He cautioned 1,400 sophomores and juniors at New Bedford High School not to grow bitter but to become involved in their own mission to make things better for all. He urged the students to register to vote and to vote when they turn 18, a privilege he marched for four decades ago.

The congressman told the students that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

“And it will be the children in New Bedford who will say, ‘We’re going to live in peace because we are all brothers and sisters.’”

His words inspired a standing ovation in the packed high school hall. They stirred the imagination of Stephanie Houtman, 15, a sophomore. “He was talking about how they burned his back with cigarettes,” Yet he did not relent. He did not stir from the segregated lunch counter.

Dominick Baptiste, 16, walked out of the auditorium with a broad smile on his face at the end of the speech. “It made me feel good to know that people can fight racism,” he said. “The fact that he was able to find the courage to sit at the white table. The fact that he was able to go back again and again.”

The congressman’s visit reminded the city of what we all know.

What happens to a family on Ash Street or at Monte Park or the United Front or County Street happens to all of us. And unless we let our own bitterness go, unless we reach across the way to our neighbor, we will never be what we want to be, what we should be.

It ought not take a visit by a congressman from Georgia to remind us of that. Deep down, we all know that. Having the courage to do something about it is the real test.

REMEMBERING MAJOR GENERAL DENVER BRACKEEN

HON. CHARLES W. “CHIP” PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I ask Congress to join me in remembering and saluting the life and legacy of Major General Denver Brackeen: a soldier, a sportsman, an administrator, and a coach. Denver passed away at his home in Union, Mississippi on May 29, at the age of 75.

Denver was born on February 10, 1931 in Hickory, Mississippi. At Hickory High School he twice achieved All-State honors for basketball, leading his Bulldogs to a 51–1 record his senior year. He went on to play basketball at East Central Community College and the University of Mississippi. At East Central he was

selected the nation’s most valuable player and earned All-American honors. At Ole Miss he received All-American honors from the Helms Athletic Foundation, was chosen most valuable player in the Southeastern Conference, twice named to All-SEC teams and selected as the most valuable player for the Southern states.

Denver was drafted by the New York Knickerbockers but soon returned to East Central Community College to begin 28 years of service as coach, guidance counselor, admissions director, dean of students and academic dean. From 1955 to 1963 he coached East Central’s basketball Warriors to a 137–52 record, with his final season finishing 22–3 after advancing to the state tournament semi-finals. In 1982, East Central chose Denver as their Alumnus of the Year and the College’s physical education building bares his name.

Denver was inducted into the NJCAA Men’s Basketball Hall of Fame, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Hall of Fame. Mississippi Governor Ronnie Musgrove appointed Denver to the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

While amassing records and notability on the hardwood courts, and teaching and training a new generation of Mississippians, Denver also served his state and nation in the Mississippi National Guard including a stint in the Korean War. After years of exemplary service he was appointed Mississippi’s Adjutant General and retired from military service with the rank of major general.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress joins me in remembering Major General Denver Brackeen’s determined leadership and championship character. Mississippi will miss this cherished native son, as will his wife Charlotte and his surviving son Morgan, and his grandchildren Jonathan, Sable, Dillon and Ashlee.

COMMENDING DONALD L. LANGHAM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LA- BORERS OF SOUTHWEST ALA- BAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Donald L. Langham of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to south Alabama. For 40 years now, Don has represented the interests of some of Alabama’s finest citizens as a labor negotiator.

Don Langham was born in Prichard, Alabama, and educated in the Mobile County public school system. After high school, Don attended the University of Southern Mississippi. He began his distinguished career in labor in Dothan, Alabama, before returning to Mobile to represent the interests of paper mill workers.

During his time in labor negotiations, Don traveled throughout Europe and South America to support the efforts of organized labor. He has met and worked with many of the most important leaders of Alabama and our country.

Due to his recent work with several multinational corporations, Don has gained a keen

insight into some of the major issues facing our nation. Don has also done outstanding work as the chairman of the board of trustees of the University of South Alabama, where he has worked tirelessly to raise funds for the South Alabama Cancer Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Mr. Donald L. Langham and commend him for his outstanding service to the people of Alabama. He has dedicated 40 years to improving the lives of workers throughout south Alabama. I know his family and many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DE- FENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RE- COVERY, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report of the “Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006.” This is the largest supplemental spending bill in the history of the United States—and all of this spending is off the books. All supplemental bills by definition are deemed “off-budget” and thus the dollars spent are not counted by the General Accounting Office when compiling annual deficit figures, nor are they included in annual budget figures. They thus obscure the true levels of spending and debt, and much of the “emergency” spending is not at all in response to any emergency.

When this bill was first before the House, I offered an amendment to redirect to Texas for Hurricane Rita recovery some \$546 million from such non-emergency “emergency” items funded in this bill as the State Department “Democracy Fund,” aid to foreign military forces, international broadcasting funds, and others. This spending was not in any way a response to legitimate emergencies and therefore I believed it would be better spent helping the Texas victims of Hurricane Rita. I also redirected some of this nonemergency spending to go toward our crippling deficit. Unfortunately this amendment was not allowed. Thus, recovery from true emergencies that have caused terrible destruction to the lives and property of American citizens is woefully underfunded while pork-barrel projects and wasteful foreign aid are funded most generously.

Mr. Speaker, our priorities in this are really backward. We need to look seriously at this incredible—unimaginable—level of spending. We are driving this country toward bankruptcy and it is bills like this that put us in the fast lane.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES CAMERON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our Nation's true civil rights pioneers, a constituent of mine who has graced Milwaukee with his work for justice and equality for over 50 years. Sadly, that man, Dr. James Cameron, died June 11, 2006.

When Dr. Cameron was only 16 years old, he was subject to a horrific, and horrifically common, episode of racial violence when a crowd lynched him and two friends. Though his friends perished in the ordeal, Dr. Cameron was miraculously released—an outcome that he attributed to divine intervention—making him the only known survivor of a lynching. Out of that experience, he built a life and a legacy dedicated to the eradication of racism, the preservation of African American history, and the advancement of civil rights for all.

Following his deliverance, Dr. Cameron focused his life on advancing the cause of equality and civil rights. He founded three chapters of the NAACP in Indiana in the 1940s, and served as first president in the Anderson, IN, chapter. He served as Indiana State Director of Civil Liberties until 1950, in which capacity he investigated and reported to the Governor of Indiana on violations of equal accommodation law. Despite receiving many threats and facing numerous acts of violence, he continued to work toward racial equality. He marched twice with Dr. Cameron and with many others then and later.

Inspired by efforts of members of the Jewish community to document their history of persecution, Dr. Cameron opened America's Black Holocaust Museum in 1988. The museum continues to document the devastating effects of slavery, lynching and racial violence. As a result of his life-long efforts, Dr. Cameron received a public apology from the U.S. Senate for its failure to take decisive action to end the epidemic of lynchings in the south.

Dr. Cameron acted as a courageous visionary. He endeavored to use the lessons of an ugly violent past to build a foundation for real unity. He worked to realize a world in which racism and violence are relegated to history. Dr. Cameron exemplifies the imperative of the civil rights struggle—the call to listen to our humanity over and above our fear. Despite his experiences, Dr. Cameron did not seek safety by trying to carry on a quiet, private life. He embraced the call to work publicly, despite the risks to his own safety, to secure full equality for all. He taught us to be better, not bitter—even though it would have been very easy for him to succumb to a life of anger after surviving such a violent and hateful experience. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to his singular courage, visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE LAND RIGHTS FOR THE 13TH REGIONAL CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, there have been many items of unfinished business which flowed from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, which was originally enacted on December 18, 1971. A number of these issues have been resolved over the years. Few of those unfinished items, however, stand out in my mind as much as the need to provide land selection rights to the members of the 13th Regional Corporation, which was formed by ANCSA primarily to represent Alaska Natives residing outside of Alaska at that time. Today, with the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act, I address that objective. I am pleased to be joined in this sponsorship by my friend and colleague from Washington State, Congressman NORM DICKS. For me, both of us, this completes a significant goal of the original act. Let me give you the background of this issue and the story of the 13th Region.

In 1971, after years of debate, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.—“the Settlement Act”—extinguishing claims by Native Alaskans based on aboriginal land rights. The act divided the State into 12 geographical “regions” which were to be composed as far as practicable of Natives having a common heritage and sharing common interests. In addition, nonresident Natives were given the option either to enroll in one of the 12 Regional Corporations established for each region or to elect, by majority vote, to form a separate 13th Regional Corporation to represent the interests of nonresident Alaskan Natives.

Provision for the 13th was focused upon serving the interests of nonresident Alaska Natives while affording them their fair share of the settlement. Some nonresident Natives had been dislocated during and after World War II, others left their homes to serve in the Armed Forces, many left to attend high schools and colleges in other States, and still others, for economic reasons, migrated south in the hope of attaining employment. Information about the Settlement Act and its implications for nonresident Natives was difficult to obtain, spotty and inconsistent in character, and generally insufficient to enable individual nonresident Natives to make reasoned decisions. In this situation, a majority of nonresident Alaska Natives felt that their interests could best be protected by forming the nonresident 13th to better control and direct their own affairs. Ultimately approximately 4,500 Alaska Natives chose to enroll in the new 13th. Wherever they resided then, or now, however, they were and are Alaska Natives, and we honor them.

In opting to join the 13th however, these nonresident Natives were deprived of the ability to fully participate in the settlement of their claims as that settlement was generally provided by the act. Let me be specific. Monetary payments under the Settlement Act were made through the Alaska Native Fund and distributed among all 13 Regional Corporations

on a per capita basis, but land was distributed only among the 12 resident Regional Corporations and the Village Corporations within those regions. No additional money, however, was provided to the 13th to compensate for the absence of land. The Settlement Act also provided that the 12 Regional Corporations would share among themselves some of the revenues from all natural resource development occurring on the lands conveyed to them. The 13th did not receive this right.

In sum, Alaska Natives enrolled in the 13th did not receive any land, and did not receive additional money in lieu of land, and did not get any right to participate in distributions from the pool of natural resource revenue funds in which the other Regional Corporations shared. The 13th, being comprised of nonresident Alaska Natives, was thus denied full participation in the settlement provided by the Settlement Act. While some will claim that this was their choice, it seems clear that it was an inadequately informed choice and resulted in depriving over 4,500 members of the 13th of two of the three major benefits of this act. This bill seeks to resolve at least the absence of an entitlement to land.

Over the years, the effect of this inequity in the act has been to substantially disadvantage the shareholders of the 13th as they tried to build an economically successful corporation and to deny them the benefits of land ownership in Alaska. As an example, the 13th received its pro rata share of the monetary payments under the Act but was obligated to distribute 50 percent of those proceeds immediately to shareholders as they were received over a number of years. The remaining 50 percent provides the only capitalization for the small corporation with many scattered shareholders. Without a land base or resources to develop, the 13th did not have the economic base, nor the crucial development alternatives afforded other Regional Corporations. The corporation did not receive revenues from the development of resources, such as timber harvest which was accomplished in several regions, or a share of sec. 7(i) revenues, including petroleum revenues, which was a source of income for the 12 Regional Corporations. The 13th has survived but with some difficulty, and it is time to provide a fairer share of the settlement to them for their future.

To correct the inequity caused by the Settlements Act's failure to equally compensate nonresident Natives for the extinguishment of their aboriginal land claims, the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act will place the shareholders of the 13th on a better footing with shareholders of the other Alaska Native Regional Corporations at least as far as land is concerned.

The proposal authorizes the 13th to select land from the excess lands previously withdrawn by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior on behalf of other Regional Corporations. The proposed legislation gives absolute priority to land selections by the State of Alaska and other Native Corporations—regional and village—and prohibits the selection of lands from within conservation system units—as defined in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. The 13th may not select from the National Petroleum Reserve, the Tongass or Chugach National Forests and other sensitive areas. In other words, the 13th is at the very end of the line for its land selections. This is nonetheless far more

equitable for the 13th than the present situation.

In proposing this legislation, the shareholders of the 13th are seeking equity by being placed on a stronger and more equal footing with respect to the Native shareholders of the other 12 Native Regional Corporations. This is supported by the Alaska Native community. This proposal has been endorsed by the Alaska Federation of Natives, and by the Association of Regional Corporation Presidents, and it has been thoroughly considered by the Alaska delegation.

My first term in Congress was the one immediately following the enactment of ANSCA in late 1971. I can tell you that neither the act nor its implementation focused much attention on the 13th. They were not fully represented, so Members of the Washington State delegation like the late Congressman Lloyd Meeds and Senator Henry Jackson took their side but were not able to accomplish land rights for the 13th, or a monetary settlement in its stead. Congressman Meeds believed throughout his life that this was a matter that required resolution.

What the 13th will receive under the new bill is, with one major exception, the same per capita land right that all other regional corporations received, no more and no less. The number of acres is arrived at by taking the total number of acres conveyed to the other Regional Corporations pursuant to section 12(c) of ANSCA—15,769,600 acres—and after subtracting Sealaska's shareholders—Sealaska received a separate entitlement—and the shareholders of the 13th—which received no land—dividing this 15,769,600 acres by 60,026, the number of original Native shareholders enrolled to the other 11 Native Regional Corporations. On a per capita basis, the shareholders of the other 11 Regional Corporations received approximately 262.7 acres per original shareholder. This per capita number multiplied by the 4,426 original shareholders of the 13th results in the 1,162,710 acres.

The bill gives absolute priority to land selections of other Native Corporations and the State of Alaska. Additionally, the bill prohibits the 13th from making selections within conservation system units, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska, and other potentially sensitive public lands.

The major exception is that all other interests, from the State, to other Native corporations and the conservation community, were able to make their land selections, and win congressional approval, when the land eligible for selection was prime, high on the list of priorities. The 13th comes behind all other priorities, including State and Native selections, national conservation lands, and others. The intent is that the land of the 13th is likely to be selected in a cooperative process with other land owners and can be complimentary to those selections, by other regions or villages, the State or other public purposes. I believe this is not only fair but good policy as Alaska moves forward. It is simply time to resolve this long-standing inequity and to provide the 13th with the right to do what all other Native regions have done. I urge my colleagues to join with me in achieving this goal this year.

HONORING GERRY B. SHREIBER

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gerry B. Shreiber for his long-standing dedication to animal welfare and animal rights. On April 6, 2006, Gerry's family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Mansion on Main Street in Voorhees, NJ, for the Animal Adoption Center Dinner where he was awarded the Southern New Jersey Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Mr. Shreiber is the President and CEO of J and J Snack Foods Corp., which has received numerous awards in the worlds of both business and philanthropy. Gerry is an avid animal lover and contributes significant time and resources to the betterment of animals. He is currently the Director of the North American Wildlife Park Foundation and is a member of many animal welfare organizations including the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation, American Anti-Vivisection Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Animal Welfare Institute, Greenpeace, and PETA. Gerry has personally saved many animals' lives and currently lives on his New Jersey farm with over twenty animals. He is also active in our community at large including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Jewish Community Center of Atlantic County, and serves on the Advisory Board at the Rutgers School of Business.

Gerry Shreiber's dedication and selfless service to animals and to our greater community is an inspiration to humanitarians everywhere. I thank Gerry, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 273, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE ARMY'S 231ST BIRTHDAY

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Representative JOHN MCHUGH. As the co-chairs the House Army Caucus, we would like to salute the United States Army on its 231st birthday.

On June 14, 1775, more than a year before the ratification of the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress created Continental Army, which later became the U.S. Army. That day, as the Americans prepared for war against the British, Congress undertook an effort to raise ten companies of riflemen and accepted responsibility for thousands

of men who were already assembled in New England and New York.

From that brave beginning was born the Army that defeated the British and gave us our Nation. From that brave beginning came more than 200 years of accomplishment and tradition and has brought us the unparalleled force we have today.

Through the last 231 years, the United States Army has fought to bring freedom to the American people and then to protect it. It has fought for liberty and against tyranny across the globe, and free people everywhere owe a debt to the sacrifices of individual soldiers, many of whom gave their lives for people they never knew.

Today's Army faces new challenges and new threats, but is still the right arm of freedom in this world. New democracies in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo owe a debt of gratitude to U.S. Army soldiers that have sacrificed on their behalf.

We are representatives today of the House Army Caucus, but each of us have represented thousands of soldiers who have served our Nation in harm's way. Each of us has met with the men and women who are part of this outstanding institution and have devoted their lives to their Nation. These men and women are models of courage and dedication; their selfless service to the Nation will serve as inspiration to citizens in the 21st century and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, of all days, we recognize that without our Army, we truly would not have a nation in the first place. As we recognize this monumental day, we ask our colleagues to join us in celebrating the contributions, traditions, and service of the Army and its dedication to the past, present, and future of this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LAWRENCE BIELAWSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Judge Lawrence Bielawski as he retires from his seat on the Michigan 18th Judicial Circuit Court in Bay County. His retirement will be celebrated at a dinner on June 23 in Bay City, Michigan.

Lawrence Bielawski is a lifelong resident of Bay City. After graduating from St. Stanislaus High School in 1964, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctor Degree from Detroit College of Law. His first position in the legal field was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Bay County. He went on to private practice until Judge Bielawski became an Administrative Law Judge in the Bureau of Workers' Disability Compensation starting in 1984.

He went on to become a member of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board and a Workers' Compensation Magistrate before being appointed to the 18th Judicial Circuit Court by Governor James J. Blanchard in 1988. Ten years later he became the Chief Judge of the Court and has served in that capacity since that time.

Staying true to his roots in Bay County, Judge Bielawski is a member of St. Stanislaus Church and is active in the St. Stanislaus Usher's Club and the Athletic Club. He served as the Vice President and Advocate with the latter organization until his appointment to the bench. His father served as the Chair of the Bay County Democratic Party for over 26 years. Judge Bielawski followed in his dad's footsteps and is a lifetime member of the Michigan Democratic Party. Larry Bielawski was the Vice President of the Bay County Democratic Party and the Chairman of the James Blanchard Election Committee for Bay County.

Always serving the community, Judge Bielawski is also affiliated with the Salvation Army Advisory Board, St. Hyacinth Athletic Club, Knights of Columbus, St. George Society, the Lion's Club, and the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. He married his wife Patricia in 1969 and they have three wonderful children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to stand before the House of Representatives and ask you to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated public servant, Judge Lawrence Bielawski, as he embarks upon a new phase in his life. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 261, on ordering the previous question on the rule for consideration of H.R. 5576, Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary, D.C. Appropriations for 2007. While I was recorded as "yes" on the previous question, I intended to cast a "no" vote.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL WAR
ON TERROR AND THE WORK
THAT GOES ON AT GUANTANAMO
BAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the suicide of three suspected dedicated terrorists imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has once again provided fodder for the enemies of the U.S.-led Global War on Terror. They are using the suicides to attack one of the most important components of this war: our ability to detain dangerous men and women and extract important information from them that will help protect American lives.

The critics, who come from the media, Congress, the blame-America first crowd and even the terrorists themselves, have long sought the psychological victory that would come with the closing of the military prison at Gitmo, and now even President Bush has been swayed by their criticism, saying that the prison is damaging the image of the U.S. at home and abroad.

After the fire at the Pentagon was extinguished, the rubble was cleared at Ground Zero, and the remains of the last victim were buried, it seems that the memory of the September 11th attacks has slowly faded away from the minds of many people. I would urge those people to consider that the memory of that day would be a daily reality were it not for the brave men and women who serve in our military and have apprehended the heinous thugs and criminals housed at Guantanamo Bay.

To make matters worse, the blame-America first crowd is not only demanding that we close Guantanamo Bay, but they are also suggesting that those imprisoned there be released, so they can return to their homelands and plot more attacks against America; a move which the Bush administration has said

it absolutely would not make. As the President said, "there are some, if put on the streets, who would create grave harm to American citizens and other citizens of the world."

Moving prisoners to another facility would simply move the controversy from Gitmo to a new prison. Creating a Guantanamo Bay military prison somewhere else would do nothing to satisfy its critics, and in fact, would embolden the terrorists by providing them with a marvelous psychological victory by allowing them to praise that Gitmo is no more.

I wish the prison at Gitmo was not necessary and its cells were empty, but that's not the reality we live with today. There are fanatic and committed terrorists and Islamofascists throughout the world who are set on hurting Americans and the West, and they need to be captured and detained. The face of Gitmo may be ugly to some, Mr. Speaker, but so was the sight of human beings jumping from the top of the World Trade Center. The terrorists brought this war to us, and I believe we need to stand firm, and keep Gitmo in business until the Global War on Terror is finally won.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JOSHUA WILLIAM ALBON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Captain and Mrs. Brian Albon, USMC, of Jacksonville, North Carolina, on the birth of their new baby son. Joshua William Albon was born on June 10, 2006, at 7:42 a.m., weighing 6 pounds and 13 ounces. Joshua has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2006 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 19

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine learning from the mistakes of 1986 relating to immigration enforcement at the workplace.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard in the 2005 Energy Bill and the future potential of biofuels such as biodiesel, cellulosic ethanol, and E85.

SD-366

3 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert D. McCallum, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Australia, and Leslie V. Rowe, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu.

SD-419

JUNE 20

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine implications on repealing the insurers' anti-trust exemption relating to the McCarran-Ferguson Act.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the Rural Development Programs of the Department of Agriculture.

SR-328A

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

SD-538

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul A. Denett, of Virginia, to

be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

SD-342

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the short selling activities of hedge funds and independent analysts.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine United Nations headquarters renovation, focusing on transparency, accountability, financial and ethical integrity at the international body.

SD-342

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing and Transportation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues for the future relating to the Federal Housing Administration.

SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's Revised Draft Management Policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, wilderness areas, recreation, and interaction with gateway communities.

SD-366

JUNE 21

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine safer technology in the context of chemical site security.

SD-628

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 480, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, and S. 437, to expedite review of the grand River Band of Ottawa Indians of Michigan to secure a timely and just determination of whether that group is entitled to recognition as a Federal Indian tribe.

SR-485

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine if Congress can protect copyright and promote innovation relating to the analog hold.

SD-226

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine economics, service, and capacity in the freight railroad industry.

SD-562

Aging
To hold hearings to examine ensuring seniors don't outlive their savings relating to managing retirement assets.

SD-106

10:30 a.m.
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven C. Preston, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine policy and perspectives and views from the field regarding the Voting Rights Act.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report entitled "Wildland Fire Suppression-Lack of Clear Guidance Raises Concerns about Cost Sharing between Federal and Nonfederal entities" (GAO-06-570).

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine accelerating the adoption of health information technology.

SD-562

4 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the regulatory processes for new and existing nuclear plants.

SD-628

Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider the report on the Indian Lobbying Misconduct Investigation, and other pending matters.

SR-485

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Trade, Tourism, and Economic Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the state of the U.S. tourism industry.

SD-562

2 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to markup S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes.

Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 574, to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to increase the authorization of appropriations and modify the date on which the authority of the Secretary of the Interior terminates under the Act, S. 1387, to provide for an update of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, to extend the authority of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission, to authorize the undertaking of a special resource study of sites and landscape features within the Corridor, and to authorize additional appropriations for the Corridor, S. 1721, to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for

certain national heritage areas, S. 2037, to establish the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area in the State of Colorado, and S. 2645, to establish the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

SD-366

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American Housing Programs.

SR-485

JUNE 29

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-562

JULY 13

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine unmanned aerial systems in Alaska.

SD-562

JULY 19

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Technology, Innovation, and Competitive-
ness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine high performance computing.

SD-562